



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

Polymer Clay Jewelry Demonstrated by BSpoken Design Artists James Rich and Diana Smith Thomas at Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

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BEREA, Ky. – On Saturday, July 26, BSpoken Design jewelers James Rich and Diana Smith Thomas, of Georgetown, will demonstrate their polymer clay jewelry from 10:30 to 3:30 at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

BSpoken Designs is the artistic collaboration of James C. Rich and Diana Smith Thomas. Rich is an artist and designer with a masters degree in architecture. With design and color as his forte, Rich translates his drawings and pen and ink studies into colorful polymer clay. Using a variety of colors, he constructs intricate polymer clay “canes”. A “cane” is a rod made up of two or more colors, layered into a pattern that when cut in a cross-section, reveals a pattern. Rich uses mainly Sculpy and Premo brands of polymer clay.

Smith Thomas, a Berea College graduate, discovered polymer clay and jewelry design while developing pendants to raise money for a charity. She takes the constructed polymer clay “cane” designs made by Rich, and creates unique jewelry and wearable art. The polymer clay patterns are folded, cut and joined to create necklace pendants, earrings and pins. Her designs are built upon her lifelong love and collection of jewelry.

Jewelry by BSpoken Designs is regularly available at the center, located just off Interstate 75 at Berea, Exit 77. The center’s exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily, year-round, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the cafe open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The center currently features works by more than 700 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. A gallery exhibit, “Repurposed & Recycled: Works by Kentucky Artisans,” is on display through Sept. 6; and in the lobby, “Kentucky Bourbon: Distillation and Inspiration,” is on display through Nov. 16. For information about the center’s events call 859-985-5448, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center, or go to the center’s website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov.

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